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8 February 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT: Briefing of Senator Symington on Soviet Capacity
to Produce and Deploy ICBMs**

1. Since November 1957, Senator Symington has attended six briefings at which we discussed our estimate of when the USSR could have an operational capability with 500 ICBMs. They were:

26-27 November 1957 - Johnson Committee
21 July 1958 - DCI's office
6 August 1958 - DCI's office
8 August 1958 - Russell Committee
16 December 1958 - DCI's office
4 February 1959 - Johnson Committee

2. Available records show that in each of these briefings, the year 1962 has been mentioned as within the time-spread of our estimate.

3. The memorandum for the record written by me immediately after the briefing of 16 December 1958 indicates that at that time I believed we had made it clear that the dates in our estimate were 1961 and 1962, rather than as early as 1960. We made this point in response to Senator Symington's specific request to help him check the accuracy of his letter.

Attachment:

Memorandum for the Record, 8 February 1959

Copies to:

DCI
DDCI
DDI
AD/SI
Legislative Counsel
[redacted] (file (2 cc.))

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